



Mahmoud Elkomy tests Cira 02 robots at the Roboto Academy in Tanta, Egypt.

3

Big Decisions

Q How can we choose the right career?

Mahmoud Elkomy's childhood dream was to see technology created in his country, Egypt, being used around the world. He chose to study engineering at university, and now he invents robots that can solve global problems. In 2021, he received a silver medal at the Geneva International Exhibitions of Inventions for one of his inventions, Cira—a robot that cares for patients with diseases.

Just like Elkomy, most of us hope to be successful in our careers. But choosing a college major and career that is right for us can be challenging. How do we know if we are making the right decision? In this unit, we look at different types of career paths and the workplace of the future.


THINK and DISCUSS

- 1 Look at the photo and read the caption. What types of skills do you think Mahmoud Elkomy needs to create robots like Cira?
- 2 Look at the essential question and the unit introduction. What do you hope to achieve in your career?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Use ten words related to careers
- Use noun and verb word forms

LEARN KEY WORDS

A  Listen to and read the information below. What things do people think about when they choose their major? Discuss with a partner.

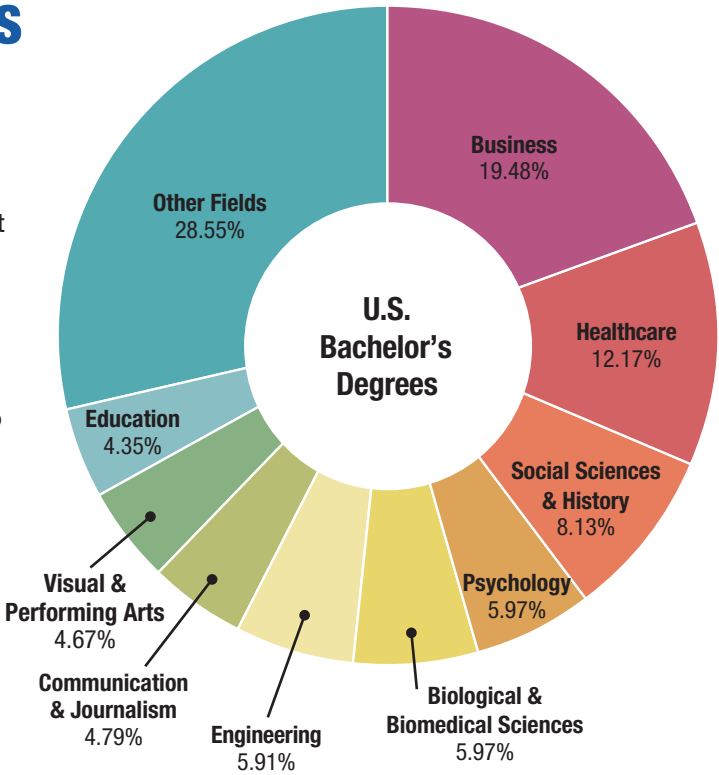
CHOOSING COLLEGE MAJORS

When they **decide** on a college major, many students get **advice** from family, **career** advisors, or teachers. Often they are told to think about two things: their **talents** and their **interests**. In other words, the best choice is one that **combines** what they are good at with what they enjoy.

But those are not the only factors that students consider. In many countries, students prefer to study business because **specialists** in this field usually get jobs with high **pay**. Many students also choose engineering for the same reason.

Another thing students **consider** is whether it will be easy to get a job. Nursing, medicine, and other health-related majors are **popular** choices because there are usually many jobs available. In addition, many students choose these careers because they want to help other people.

Source: Hanson, Melanie, "College Graduation Statistics" EducationData.org (2021)



Student doctors working on a prosthetic arm at a medical school in South Africa.

B Match the correct form of each word in **bold** in Exercise A with its meaning.

- _____ a feeling that you want to learn and find out more about something
- _____ a job you do over a long period of time
- _____ to put two or more things together
- _____ liked by a large number of people
- _____ someone who has a lot of knowledge or skill in a particular subject
- _____ a suggestion about what somebody should do
- _____ a natural ability to do something well
- _____ to make a choice to do something
- _____ money that employees receive for doing their job
- _____ to think carefully about a decision or something you might do

C Use a dictionary to complete the chart below with the correct words in the word families.

Noun	Verb
advice	
interest	
	decide
specialist	

D Complete the passage using the correct form of the words in **bold** from Exercise A.

It's usually not a good idea to ¹_____ on a major or career based on how ²_____ it is with other people. Before you ask others for ³_____, start by thinking carefully about yourself. Think about your skills, your personality, and what is important to you. Would you want to work in a particular job, earn good ⁴_____, help others, or maybe travel a lot? Also, think about the working conditions you would like—perhaps working in teams or by yourself. And ⁵_____ whether you want to work outdoors, in an office, for a small or large company, or maybe even for yourself. That way, you'll be more likely to make a good decision about your ⁶_____.


COMMUNICATE

E Work with a partner. Discuss the questions below.

1. What career or major do you think will suit you best? Why do you think so? Do you have any related skills or interests?
2. What type of working conditions do you prefer?

Viewing and Note-taking

BEFORE VIEWING

- A**  Listen to a short passage about the advantages and disadvantages of taking time off after college to volunteer. Complete the T-chart below.

Volunteering after college	
Advantages	Disadvantages
• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____
• _____	
• _____	
• _____	

- B** You are going to listen to a talk by a career advisor. Have you spoken to a career advisor before? If you have, how was your experience? If you have not, do you think it would be helpful? Discuss with a partner.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES


- Watch a talk about career paths
- Use a T-chart
- Make inferences

Note-taking Skill

Using a T-chart

A T-chart is a chart with two columns. It is useful for comparing two things, for example, listing the advantages and disadvantages of something. Using a T-chart is a quick way to organize your notes efficiently.

WHILE VIEWING

- C**  **LISTEN FOR MAIN IDEAS** Watch the talk. Check (✓) the sentence that gives the main idea of the talk.
- a. ☐ Most people don't know what they want to do in the future.
 - b. ☐ It is possible to combine skills or explore different interests in one's career.
 - c. ☐ Multipotentialites explore different fields before deciding on one career.
 - d. ☐ It will become more difficult for specialists to succeed in the modern world.

- D**  **LISTEN FOR DETAILS** Watch the talk again. Complete the T-chart below.

Career paths	
Hybrid professional	Multipotentialite
• Expert in ¹ _____ area	• Does many ⁴ _____ jobs
• ² _____ two or more skills	• Has a variety of ⁵ _____
• Highly unique work that helps them ³ _____	• Quick at ⁶ _____
	• More able to adapt to ⁷ _____

- E** **MAKE INFERENCES** Check (✓) the answers to the following questions.

- Which of the following advice do you think the speaker would give?
 - a. ☐ You should only explore things that you are good at.
 - b. ☐ If you have more than one interest, you should not specialize.
 - c. ☐ It's good to have a career that is unique.
- What conclusion can we draw about careers based on the presentation?
 - a. ☐ Hybrid professionals and multipotentialites did not exist in the past.
 - b. ☐ In the past, people believed that only specialists could have successful careers.
 - c. ☐ There are more hybrid professionals than specialists in the modern world.

Listening Skill

Making Inferences

When we make an inference, we use information that we have to make a guess about the speaker's views on the topic. We draw conclusions based on what the speaker says and the way the speaker says it.

AFTER VIEWING

- F** **APPLY** Work with a partner. Discuss the questions below.

- Why do you think there weren't words to describe people who are good at many different things until recently? What do you think has changed?
- Which type of career path do you think best suits you: a specialist, a hybrid professional, or a multipotentialite? Why?





A team of volunteers cleaning up garbage at a mangrove forest in Florida, U.S.A.


Noticing Language

LISTEN FOR LANGUAGE *Express opinions*

- A** Read the opinions below. Underline the phrases that tell you these statements are opinions.
- I think that following your passion is more important than earning lots of money.
 - We can have many interests, but I don't believe that a person can be good at more than one thing.
 - In my opinion, everyone thinks about what they want to work as before they start college.
 - Most people want to change their careers later in life, so I don't think it's good to specialize in one area.

- B**  Listen to the following excerpts from the talk in Lesson B. What phrases does the speaker use to express his opinion? Complete the sentences with the correct words.
- But for many others, _____ it's the right question.
 - If you can't decide what you want to do with your life, _____ that's OK.
 - _____, specialists, hybrid professionals, and multipotentialites all have qualities that are really important in the modern world.
 - _____ it doesn't matter if you have one interest or many.

- C**  Listen to a conversation between two friends. Number the phrases in the order you hear them.
- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| a. _____ In my opinion | c. _____ I think |
| b. _____ I don't think | d. _____ I believe that |

- D**  Listen to the conversation again. What opinions do Claire and Ali have? Check (✓) the correct statements.

Claire

- ☐ The job fair was not very helpful.
- ☐ The jobs at the job fair were not very interesting.
- ☐ We need to start specializing early to have a successful career.

Ali

- ☐ We don't have to specialize early to be successful.
- ☐ Trying different things can be helpful if you have a clear idea of what you want.
- ☐ Taking your time to decide on a career could mean falling behind in the beginning.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Notice language for expressing opinions
- Express opinions

Communication Skill

Expressing Opinions

Your opinion is what you think or feel about something. You can use the phrases below to introduce your opinion.

I (don't) think (that) ...

I (don't) believe (that) ...

In my opinion ...



An event manager is a great job for people who like meeting new people.

- E** Work with a partner. Discuss the questions below.
- Why do you think Claire did not find the job fair helpful?
 - What do you think are some disadvantages of trying out different things before specializing?

COMMUNICATE

- F** Note an example for each prompt below and give a reason for your choice.

- A good job for you

- A difficult job

- A job that requires many talents or skills

- A job that is fun

- A job that is good for people who prefer to work alone

- G** Work in groups. Take turns sharing your ideas in Exercise F. Ask follow-up questions. Were any of the jobs you chose the same?

In my opinion, writing movie reviews is a fun job. You get to watch lots of great movies!

I think that being a nurse is a very difficult job. You have to work long hours, and it's very stressful.

Communicating Ideas



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Use appropriate language to express opinions
- Collaborate to advise someone about career choices

ASSIGNMENT

Task: You are going to collaborate with a partner to learn about a person’s interests and advise on career choices.

LISTEN FOR INFORMATION

- A**  **LISTEN FOR DETAILS** Listen to a passage about three people and their different careers. Check (✓) the statements that are true.
- a. ☐ Zara Rutherford is the first in her family to become a pilot.
 - b. ☐ Zara Rutherford’s dream is to become an astronaut.
 - c. ☐ Leonardo da Vinci had many different talents and skills.
 - d. ☐ Leonardo da Vinci worked as an engineer before he decided to become a painter.
 - e. ☐ Julia Collins combines her skills to create unique products.
 - f. ☐ Julia Collins became a chef for a robot pizza company.
- B**  **LISTEN FOR MAIN IDEAS** Listen again and write the names of the three people in the correct column.

Multipotentialite	Hybrid professional	Specialist
<div><div></div><div>• _____</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>• _____</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>• _____</div></div>

- C** Work with a partner. Think of five famous people. What careers do they have? Which category do they fall into? Note their names and careers in the chart in Exercise B.
- D** Work with a partner. What do you think about the careers of the people listed in Exercise B? Share your opinions and explain your ideas.

It’s amazing how Julia Collins managed to find a way to combine her talents. I believe she must’ve tried many things before she succeeded.

I think maybe Leonardo da Vinci should have just continued as a painter for his entire career. He explored so many different careers but he’s still most famous for his paintings.

COLLABORATE

- E** Work with a partner. Read about Olivia. What are some possible jobs that Olivia could consider?

Olivia

Olivia is graduating from college soon and needs some advice on the best career to choose. She is good at biology, enjoys being with people, and is thinking about studying medicine. She likes to travel and would love to work overseas. Olivia is also a talented musician and she sings in a band. Some of her friends say she should make music her career.



Possible jobs:

- F** Make a recommendation for Olivia. Which job would you recommend to Olivia? Which career path do you think would be best for her: specialist, hybrid professional, or multipotentialite? Give reasons for your recommendation.

Final recommendation: _____

Reasons: _____

- G** Share your recommendation with the class. What are the most popular job recommendations for Olivia?

Checkpoint

Reflect on what you have learned. Check your progress.

I can ... ☐ understand and use words related to careers.

advice	career	combine	consider	decide
interest	pay	popular	specialist	talent

- ☐ use noun and verb forms of *advice*, *decide*, *interest*, and *specialize*.
- ☐ watch and understand a talk about career paths.
- ☐ use a T-chart to take notes.
- ☐ make inferences based on what the speaker says.
- ☐ notice language for expressing opinions.
- ☐ use language for expressing opinions.
- ☐ collaborate and communicate effectively to advise on career choices.



Tod Machover plays a hypercello in his MIT Media Lab work space.

Building Vocabulary

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Use ten words related to pursuing interests
- Use collocations with *main*

LEARN KEY WORDS

A  Listen to and read the passage below. What is STEAM? Why is it important?

From **STEM** to **STEAM**

The workplace is changing at a fast rate. Machines are replacing many tasks done by humans, and the skills that companies are looking for are changing. The World Economic Forum thinks that about 65% of children starting grade school today will be working in **completely** new jobs that do not exist at the moment. It is impossible to predict which careers will be important in the future. But we can prepare for future **opportunities** by learning the right skills.

In order for students to **develop** the skills they need, there has recently been a move from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) to STEAM. STEAM education combines art subjects with STEM subjects. It encourages students to connect their learning in new ways, without being **limited** to one subject at a time. The **main** aim of STEAM education is to teach students to be innovative, good communicators, and to be able to use critical thinking to solve problems. In a future world where change is constant, these skills will be very important in helping people make their **dreams** come true.


B Work with a partner. Discuss the questions below.

1. What subjects do you find more interesting—STEM subjects or art subjects? What do you like about them?
2. Tod Machover is a composer and an inventor who has invented many new technologies for music, including hyperinstruments. Hyperinstruments use computers to allow musicians to create unique sounds and music. In the photo, Machover is playing a hypercello. What skills do you think Machover combines for his work?


C Match the correct form of each word in **bold** in Exercise A with its meaning.

1. _____ a wish to have or to be something
2. _____ a situation in which something is possible
3. _____ the most important (part of something)
4. _____ to stop someone from doing more
5. _____ to create or make
6. _____ in every way

WHILE VIEWING

B  **LISTEN FOR MAIN IDEAS** Watch Gab Mejia’s talk. Check (✓) the statements that best summarize the main ideas of the talk.

- a. ☐ It’s best to combine a STEM subject with an arts subject.
- b. ☐ Be open to exploring new opportunities.
- c. ☐ It’s good to try out new things before graduating from university.
- d. ☐ It’s possible to combine skills and interests that are very different.

C  **MAKE INFERENCES** Watch Mejia’s talk again. Which statements are probably true or probably false? Circle **T** for true and **F** for false.

- | | | |
|--|----------|----------|
| 1. Mejia’s childhood dream was to be a professional photographer. | T | F |
| 2. Mejia did not want to give up engineering for photography. | T | F |
| 3. It was easy for Mejia to balance his engineering studies and photography. | T | F |
| 4. For Mejia, combining his passions allowed him to do more for the environment. | T | F |

D **LISTEN FOR DETAILS** How are engineering and photography helpful for Mejia? Complete the T-chart below.

Engineering	Photography
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Helps him to ¹_____Allows him to develop solutions to ²_____	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Allows him to ³_____ amazing placesHelps him to see and understand ⁴_____ in nature

AFTER VIEWING

E **SEQUENCE EVENTS** How did Mejia choose his career path? Order the events below (1–5).

- a. _____ Mejia visited Mount Kosciuszko in Australia and the Mojave Desert in the U.S.
- b. _____ Mejia joined different environmental and photography groups.
- c. _____ Mejia’s photo of the Gabaldon Floodplain won first place in a competition.
- d. _____ Mejia realized that he could combine engineering and photography.
- e. _____ Mejia started studying engineering at university.


WORDS IN THE TALK

landslide (n) when rock and earth suddenly move down a hill or mountain
passion (n) an activity you are very interested in or love doing
professional (adj) doing something as a paid job instead of a hobby

F **REFLECT** Work with a partner. Discuss the questions below.

- 1. What do you think of Mejia’s choice to do both engineering and photography?
- 2. What are some challenges you could face when combining skills from very different fields?

PRONUNCIATION *Thought groups and pausing*


G  Read and listen to an excerpt from Mejia’s talk. Notice the thought groups and pauses.

I never thought / that a photo / would change my life. / This is a photograph / of the Gabaldon Floodplain in the Philippines. / It won me first place / in a photo competition in 2017. / I was 19 years old / and the prize was a trip / to the icy mountains / of Patagonia.

Pronunciation Skill

Thought Groups and Pausing

We usually divide speech into different thoughts or ideas. We call these *thought groups*. We usually pause at the end of a thought or idea. In writing, we often show this with punctuation.

H  Listen to the following excerpts from Mejia’s talk. Put a slash (/) between thought groups.

- 1. I did enjoy hiking in my free time and taking photos on my trips. But I had never thought of becoming a professional photographer.
- 2. But I actually didn’t want to give up either of them. And I wanted to find a way to make things work.
- 3. And as I spent more time on both photography and engineering, I began to see that engineering and photography weren’t really at two ends of a scale.
- 4. Choosing to study a STEM subject shouldn’t limit you from the world of the arts or any other field.

I Write two sentences about some of your interests. Add some information about these interests, for example, why you like them, or how often you do them.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

J Work with a partner. Take turns reading your sentences aloud. Practice pausing at the end of each thought group.



In 2019 and 2020, an estimated 240 acres of land were burned in the Agusan Marshlands in the Philippines.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Interpret an infographic about the usefulness of degrees
- Synthesize and evaluate ideas about career paths

ANALYZE INFORMATION

A Look at the infographic and answer the questions. Discuss your answers with a partner.

1. What were the most common reasons the graduates thought their degree was worth doing? What are some possible reasons for their choices?
2. Do you think it is worth getting a degree? Why, or why not?

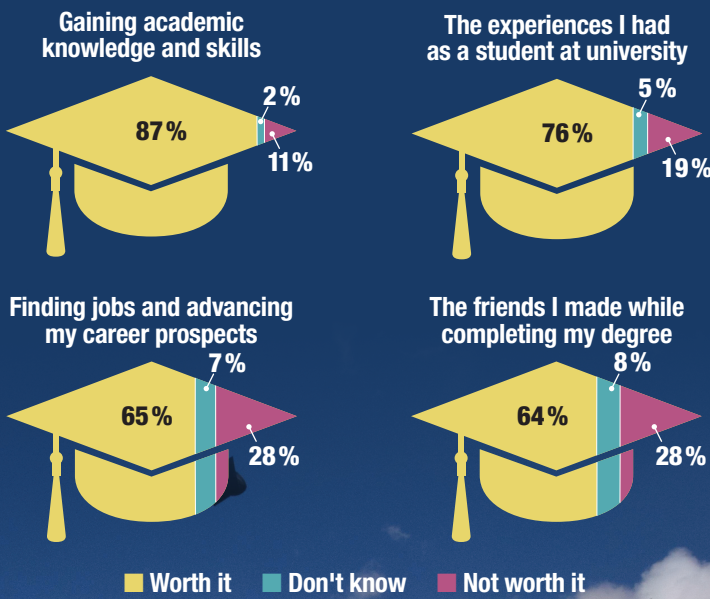
IS A DEGREE USEFUL?

Many students decide to go to college or university because they believe that it will help them get a better job in the future. But how useful is a degree actually? A YouGov survey in 2020 asked U.K. graduates the reasons they thought their degree was worth doing. The top reason was not to find a good job or develop a career, but to get knowledge and new skills. The next most common reason was to experience life as a student.

One explanation for the results could be that nearly half of the graduates were now working in a field unrelated to their degree. Therefore, their degrees were not very useful for their jobs. But does this mean that the graduates felt that their degree was a waste of time? In fact, only 8% of the graduates wished they had not gone to university. However, it is worth noting that nearly two in five graduates said that they would choose a different major if they could decide again.

Source: YouGov (2020)

Do you think your degree was worth doing for the following reasons?



B Listen to a podcast about Industry 4.0. How are the third and fourth industrial revolutions different? Circle the correct words in the T-chart.

Industrial Revolutions	
Third	Fourth
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Began in ¹early / ^{late} 20th century• Technology became ²digital / ^{global}• Appearance of ³electronics / ^{automobiles} and IT<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Factories made products automatically	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More advanced ⁴workers / ^{technology}<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ AI, robots, 3D printing• Inventions ⁵combining / ^{dividing} different fields• Physical and digital world ⁶separated / ^{connected}

C Listen to the podcast again. Check (✓) the statements that best describe Industry 4.0.

- ☐ Technology will take over jobs and there will be very few jobs left.
- ☐ People will spend most of their time in the digital world.
- ☐ Jobs will be constantly changing at a fast rate.
- ☐ Education will no longer be able to help students prepare for their careers.
- ☐ Workers will need a variety of skills, including technical skills.

D Work with a partner. Think of the skills you have learned at school or college. Which ones do you think will be most useful for your job in the future? Why?

COMMUNICATE *Synthesize and evaluate ideas*

E What advice do you think the speakers in this unit would have for students who are preparing for Industry 4.0?

University career advisor in Lesson B: _____

Gab Mejia in Lesson F: _____

F What can you do to help you do well in the Industry 4.0 environment? Discuss with a partner.

I think it's good not to specialize too quickly. Maybe I can be a multipotentialite. I'd be ready to take on any job in the future!

I think I'll try to combine my interests. My interests are math and music. I believe that having a unique career will be good for my future.

Putting It Together

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Research, plan, and present options for careers
- Use a suitable tone when presenting

ASSIGNMENT

Individual presentation: You are going to take on the role of a career advisor and present some career options to a classmate.

PREPARE

- A** Review the unit and the various perspectives on planning for a future career. Then interview your partner. Ask your partner the questions below to find the information you need. You can add your own questions.

Name: _____

What subjects do you enjoy or are you good at?	
What are your main interests outside of work/ college?	
What would you say are your best skills?	
Would you prefer to work with people or on your own?	

- B** Search online for jobs that could be suitable for your partner. Note any useful ideas below.

- C** Plan your presentation. Choose three suitable jobs from your list in Exercise B. Think about the career path that might be best for your partner—specialist, multipotentialite, or hybrid professional. Add details and explain your choices. Use the chart below to take notes.

Job / Career Path	Reasons

- D** Look back at the vocabulary, pronunciation, and communication skills you’ve learned in this unit. What can you use in your presentation? Note any useful language below.

- E** Look back at your notes. What is the purpose of your presentation? What is a suitable tone to use when presenting your ideas?

- F** Practice your presentation. Make use of the presentation skill that you’ve learned. Read the sentences in the box below for useful language that you can use in your presentation.

Language to Give Recommendations

I think you’ll be good at ... because ...

I think you should consider ...

Presentation Skill

Using a Suitable Tone

The tone of your voice can have a big impact on how the audience feels about you and your message. It should match the content and purpose of your presentation. In Gab Mejia’s talk, he uses an energetic and enthusiastic voice to show his excitement and interest in the subject of his talk.

PRESENT

- G** Give your presentation to your partner. Watch their presentation and evaluate them using the Presentation Scoring Rubrics at the back of the book.

- H** Discuss your evaluation with your partner. Give feedback on two things they did well and two areas for improvement.

Checkpoint

Reflect on what you have learned. Check your progress.

- I can ...** ☐ understand and use words related to pursuing interests.

competition

complete

completely

develop

dream

give up

journey

limit

main

opportunity

- ☐ use some common collocations with the word *main*.
- ☐ watch and understand a talk about combining passions.
- ☐ use thought groups and pausing.
- ☐ interpret an infographic about the usefulness of degrees.
- ☐ synthesize and evaluate ideas about career paths.
- ☐ use a suitable tone when giving a presentation.
- ☐ give a presentation about career options.